

A Slovenian Postcard Adds Another Forerunner Pattern

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

After reading Bob Schwerdt's well researched article on Slovenian perfin forerunners, I thought that I would share the postcard that is pictured here.

The obverse shows a beautiful color picture of Laibach (Ljubljana). But it is the reverse of this card, purchased through an e-bay auction, that is interesting. A perfinned Austrian stamp was the first interesting item. The perfin is not listed as known for use in Slovenia but, instead, is listed in the Austrian Perfin Catalog to an unknown user in Innsbruck, Austria. Although I have not been able to obtain a translation, the shortness of the written note seems to indicate a personal rather than commercial use of this postcard.

Most prominent is a purple military censor's marking that just touches the edge of the left side stamp perforations thus tying the stamp to the cover. The postal cancel is partial but does clearly show "Ljub..." to attest to its use in Slovenia. The middle bottom of the card indicates 1914 as the year of the card. This coincides nicely with the WWI era. The

military censor marking would have been used during WWI which found Slovenia as part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and the Central Powers, fighting against the Allies, of which Italy was one. The Italian-Slovenian border, although not a decisive area of the war, nonetheless was actively fought over. Future treaties and political conditions would change the boundaries several times to the present leaving many ethnic Slovenes in Italy and Austria.

Lastly, this card is addressed to Temesvár, then located in Hungary, and part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Thus the postcard rate of 5 heller. Now spelled "Timisoara" this city is now part of Romania, how history impacts geography!

Bob may wish to add this Austrian perfin (C.G.A.H.) to his information.

(Bob Szymanski's maternal grandparents were both born in Slovenia, and Sue-Ellen Szymanski's paternal grandmother was born in Temesvár.)

